

August 4, 2006

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that the Chitimacha Indian Tribe will receive a grant worth **\$63,055** from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The grant will go toward improving the law enforcement infrastructure of the Chitimacha's tribal police agency.

"It is so important that communities are able to join together with law enforcement to prevent crime," Melancon said. "This grant will help the Chitimacha tribe improve their law enforcement while also increasing community involvement." □

COPS considers grant requests that reflect the most serious law enforcement needs of an agency that does not receive state, local or Bureau of Indian Affairs funds and are linked to beginning or enhancing a community policing program. Funding can be used for three years of entry-level salary and benefits for newly-hired law enforcement officers, law enforcement training, basic standard issue equipment, uniforms, technology and police vehicles.

COPS was created as a result of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. It provides grants to tribal, state and local law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies and develop and test innovative policing strategies.

Community policing focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police services that includes aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement and partnerships. Community policing requires police and citizens to join together as partners in the course of both identifying and effectively addressing these issues.

###